

**DRAFT MINUTES
VIRGINIA OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
STATE CAPITOL HOUSE ROOM 3**

**1000 BANK STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2013
2:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bob Matthias called the meeting to order at 2:10p.m.

Members Present: Joan Bondareff, Mary Doswell, Art Moye, Bob Matthias, Brian Redmond, Ron Ritter

Members Absent: John Jester

Staff: Al Christopher, DMME Energy Division Director; Ken Jurman, DMME Renewable Energy Manager; Barbara Simcoe, DMME State Energy Program Manager; George Hagerman, Virginia Tech Advanced Research Institute; Matt Gooch, Assistant Attorney General

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair called for a motion to approve the July 24, 2013, minutes as presented. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

VOWDA 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Al Christopher reviewed the working draft of the annual report, which included the suggested edits and comments submitted by members to DMME staff. Copies of two appendices, the Virginia Offshore Wind Timeline and 2013-14 Milestones, were also provided. Members can send Al any specific changes to the OSW Timeline. After discussion, it was agreed that DMME staff will edit the report to include the additional revisions approved by the Board and submit the final report to the Governor and General Assembly. A copy of the final report will be posted to the VOWDA website.

VOWDA ACTION WORK PLAN

The first draft of the 2014 VOWDA Action Work Plan, which incorporates updates and new action items identified by DMME staff, was distributed to members for review and input. The Plan will be revised per discussion and distributed to members for review and approval at the November 13, 2013 meeting.

OFFSHORE WIND FEDERAL INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT LEGISLATION

Dawone Robinson of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) addressed the board regarding the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for offshore wind legislation [H.R. 924/S.401] in Congress. The current ITC is set to expire on December 31, 2013. This bill would extend the 30% ITC on offshore wind project investments for the first 3,000 GW built in U.S. waters. The CCAN is working with the clean energy community to sign and send a letter to Senators Kaine and Warner and Congressmen Forbes, Wittman, and Rigell asking them to support and co-sponsor the ITC. Currently the bill has 78 House co-sponsors and 14 Senate co-sponsors.

VOWDA sent letters to Virginia's Congressional delegation in March 2013 requesting their support for the *Incentivizing Wind Power Act*. The Board asked DMME staff to prepare a letter for the Chairman's signature urging the legislators support, referencing the significant developments in Virginia, including the commercial lease.

UPDATES

Research Leases

BOEM received five comments on its Public Notice of an Unsolicited Request for an OCS Research Lease -- Request for Competitive Interest (RFCI) and Public Comment. The BOEM notice was to solicit public input regarding the proposal and its potential environmental consequences and impact on the use of the area in which the proposed project would be located, and indications of competitive interest for a research lease. Comments included DMME's letter submitted August 29th supporting the position that the area identified for the lease is appropriate for research activities and not commercial development. None of the comments expressed competitive interest.

DMME Ocean Survey

Fugro submitted a draft report to DMME, who met with BOEM to review the draft content. BOEM has expressed a lot of interest in the additional data. DMME provided a small amount of additional funding to collect bottom contour samples and also requested and received split samples from the VOWTAP project to conduct additional grain size analysis which is instructive for changes in bottom contours and for heavy mineral analysis. This could be another cost sharing

opportunity with BOEM. Fugro may make a presentation on the ocean survey at the November VOWDA meeting.

VOWTAP

Camp Pendleton surveys and right-of-way easement approval efforts are underway as part of the planning for construction related to the landfall of the test turbines 35kV distribution cable. VOWTAP is finalizing its detailed equipment layout plan requested by BOEM, showing placement of the two test turbines. VOWAP will provide an update at the November meeting.

DMME Request For Information (RFI) – Virginia Offshore Wind Data Gathering

The RFI, which seeks input on how DMME should best apply the approximately \$850,000 in state funding to leverage private and federal funding for increased data gathering to give Virginia an advantage over competing states in attracting offshore wind industry to Virginia, was released on September 27 and will close on November 8. VOW member and public surveys input helped to inform the design of the RFI. The results of the RFI and ideas on how to leverage and spend the funds will be reviewed at the VOWDA November meeting. The next step is to design and publish the Request for Proposals (RFP). DMME's goal is to release the RFP in early December.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eileen Levandoski (Sierra Club) announced that their 4th Annual Clean Energy Business Lobby Day is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2014. Representatives of Virginia's clean energy industry will meet with legislators to lobby for their legislation. It's also an opportunity to educate and promote the clean energy industry. The Lobby Day includes a clean energy press conference and a legislative reception at the Richmond Marriott with legislators.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The November meeting date was changed to November 13th, location to be announced later. Agenda items may include: Dominion updates on VOWTAP and the lease project, Fugro update on the ocean survey, Biocoustics Research presentation on acoustic data and Virginia's WEA, NRDC presentation on the Voluntary Right Whale Agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.